

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 689

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 137

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 45

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T DJIBOUTI 247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PDIP, ASEC, DJ, ET

SUBJ: EMBARRASSING VISITORS, CHAP. II, ETHIOPIA STRIKES BACK

REF: DJIBOUTI 199 AND 234

1. PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED INFORMED FRENCH AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL ON FEBRUARY 23 THAT OGAZ HASSAN HERSI, SPIRITUAL CHIEF OF THE ISSA TRIBE, RESIDENT AT DIRE DAWA, PLANS TO VISIT DJIBOUTI IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE PRESIDENT ASKED THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO INTERCEDE WITH THE ETHIOPIAN CONSULATE GENERAL TO REQUEST THAT THE OGAZ BE PERSUADED NOT TO VISIT DJIBOUTI AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE REASON FOR THIS INDIRECT APPROACH LIES IN THE PRESIDENT'S DISPLEASURE WITH MUSA YASIN, ETHIOPIAN CONSUL GENERAL.

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2. JUST AS THE POSSIBLE RETURN OF SULTAN ALI MIRAH WOULD GUARANTEE A NEGATIVE REACTION FROM ETHIOPIA, CERTAIN ISSAS AND A GOOD NUMBER OF PRO-ETHIOPIAN AFARS, (SEE REFTELS) VISIT OF THE OGAZ WOULD ASSURE THE DISCOMFITURE OF SOMALIA, THE AFARS AND A GOODLY NUMBER OF THE ISSAS. THE LOCAL POSITION OF THE OGAZ HAS CONSIDERABLY CHANGED SINCE THE TIME HE WAS AN

HONORED GUEST AT DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES IN JUNE 1977. SINCE RETURN OF THE OGAZ TO DIRE DAWA IN JULY, MUCH AGAINST THE ADVICE OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO LIVE IN DJIBOUTI, THE OGAZ REPORTEDLY WORKED CLOSELY WITH ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO PROTECT ISSAS IN ETHIOPIAN-HELD AREAS FROM THE WORST OF ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL REPRESSION. IN SO DOING, THE OGAZ BECAME THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE SOMALI-GENERATED PROPAGANDA. THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD FREQUENT ACCUSATIONS OF OGAZ COLLABORATION WITH THE ETHIOPIANS, CUBANS, ETC. THE RESULT IS THAT THE OGAZ IS NOW A VERY CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE IN DJIBOUTI, AND HIS PRESENCE RISKS TO CREATE THE SAME DESTABILIZATION EFFECT THAT WOULD FOLLOW THE VISIT OF ALI MIRAH.

3. THE ETHIOPIAN CONSUL GENERAL WAS UNAWARE OF THE OGAZ'S PLANNED VISIT. WHEN HE WAS INFORMED BY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THAT THERE WERE RUMORS IN DJIBOUTI CONCERNING THE OGAZ, MUSA YASIN'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO ASK WHETHER THE OGAZ HAD BEEN SHOT WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE. WHEN HE LEARNED THAT THE CONCERN WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT, THE YOUNG ETHIOPIAN ASKED WHETHER THE FRENCHMAN WAS OFFERING A QUID PRO QUO: NON-RETURN OF ALI MIRAH FOR NON-RETURN OF THE OGAZ. AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL SAID THAT HE OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT IN THAT POSITION. NEVERTHELESS, THE ETHIOPIAN DIPLOMAT SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY ADVISE ADDIS ABABA THAT THE VISIT OF THE OGAZ SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED AT THIS TIME.

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4. THE SIXTY-YEAR-OLD OGAZ WILL PROBABLY NEED SOME TIME TO RESTORE HIS POSITION IN THE ISSA CLAN. THE EVIDENT LACK OF COHESION AMONG THE ISSAS ON THE ISSUE OF THEIR OGAZ AND OTHER MATTERS IS NOW A FACTOR WHICH THE ETHIOPIANS CAN BE EXPECTED TO EXPLOIT NOW THAT THE WAR IS GOING IN THEIR FAVOR.
CLARKE

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NNN

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